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For Immediate Release May 29, 2014

Press Release

USAID, UNICEF Announce \$17 million Emergency Education Project for War-Displaced Children in South Sudan

May 29, 2014 – Juba, South Sudan. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today announced the start of a new partnership to provide emergency education to girls, boys and youth forced to flee their homes by fighting in South Sudan. The U.S. Government will provide \$17 million in funding for the project, to be implemented by UNICEF. It will specifically target internally displaced children, including children in the Protection of Civilian areas within the compounds of the U.N. Mission in South Sudan, and it will also include host communities.

"The new partnership gives girls, boys and youth a safe space in the midst of increased risks of trauma, injury, exploitation and abuse," USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Linda Etim said. "Education in emergencies is the first measure in creating a sense of normalcy in the lives of children affected by violence and conflict." The intervention will provide safe and protective temporary learning spaces, supply teaching and learning materials, support accelerated learning for out-of-school adolescents and youth, train teachers in life skills, peacebuilding and psychosocial support. The project will also deliver lifesaving messages in coordination with South Sudan's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health and other partners.

"In addition to the obvious need for continuing children's education, education in emergencies actually saves lives by supporting children and adolescents with essential messages about how to maintain health in the crowded temporary shelters where they live," said Jonathan Veitch, UNICEF's Representative in South Sudan. "It also helps to build social cohesion and to teach children about alternatives to violence in resolving conflict, as well as giving them a positive and constructive routine in the midst of the chaos and trauma of life in this devastating emergency."

The project will benefit displaced children in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Lakes, Central and Eastern Equatoria – states severely affected by the conflict of the past five months.

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